

February 26, 2018

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket RM 2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of UNICEF USA and the children we serve we urge the Commission to reconsider the proposed rate increases for nonprofit organizations. Our organization relies on the United States Postal Service to raise funds and to communicate with our donors and supporters.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in more than 190 countries and territories to put children first. UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization, by providing health care and immunizations, safe water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief and more. UNICEF USA supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy and education in the United States through a robust and effective direct mail campaign. Together with UNICEF, we are working toward the day when no children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood.

The Postal Service plays a vital role in supporting the philanthropic sector. For UNICEF USA it is one of the primary methods we use to communicate with our supporters and raise the funds needed to carry out our mission. We have grave concerns about the negative impact the proposed rate increases – substantially above the rate of inflation – will have on our ability to accomplish our mission. If adopted as proposed, these rate increases will force our organization to reduce mail volume which will inevitably result in reduced revenue, and in turn, will force us to reduce the services. We will be unable to provide lifesaving vaccines, clean water, and food to so many children in need, thus increasing infant and child mortality and ending hope for future generations to thrive.

We believe the current rate setting system where postal rates are tied to the Consumer Price Index should be maintained. It has succeeded in generating the funds necessary for the Postal Service to meet its ongoing operational needs, while also providing those that rely on the Postal Service with a stable and predictable rate structure. This is critical to our organization's ability to continue to use and rely on the mail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate your review and consideration on behalf of our organization.

Sincerely,

**Helene Vallone Raffaele**

Vice President, Donor Strategy and Experience  
UNICEF USA  
Phoenix, Arizona